

REMARKS

By this response Applicants have amended all of the pending independent claims to require that the protective coating, on the heat generating element of the discharge head, is formed by plural layers; and, that the second region of the protective coating has less layers than the first region, and is disposed in all cases closer to the discharge port as compared to the first region.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited Osaki patent does not disclose these requirements of the amended independent claims. Specifically, Applicants stress that Osaki does not disclose this requirement that the second region is disposed in all cases closer to the discharge port than the first region; and, that in Osaki the first region is closer in some cases to the discharge port than the second region.

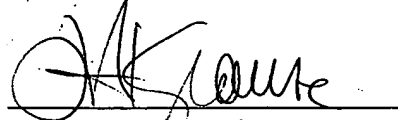
Applicants also submit that none of the other references can be deemed to overcome this deficiency of Osaki as a rejecting reference.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

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Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office
by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our
address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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